

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

With regard to Applicants' amendments and arguments regarding Sato et al., the Examiner asserts that the comparison of Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al. and Comparative Example 2 of the present application is not proper, as it is not clear that the winding propensity (of Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al.) is measured in the same way as the twist index is measured by Applicants. Specifically, the Examiner points to paragraph [0044] of Sato et al., stating that the filament was wound around a spool and was allowed to stand at room temperature for seven days. The Examiner states that Applicants' method for measuring twist index involves winding a filament around a spool of the same diameter, but it is left standing on the spool for seven days in an oven warmed at 40°C, and then brought to room temperature. The Examiner asserts that the process for measuring the winding propensity (in Sato et al.) does not involve keeping the spool for seven days at 40°C, but rather at room temperature. Further, the Examiner asserts that the process of Sato et al. lacks details of the crosshead speed, tensile load, etc. Thus, the Examiner asserts that a fair comparison can not be made using these parameters, and the Examiner has maintained the anticipation and obviousness rejections based on Sato et al.

From the following discussion, it is believed apparent that Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al. fails to satisfy a twist index of at least 0.90 after standing for 3 hours.

Typical parameters of Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al. and Comparative Example 2 of the present application are summarized as follows:

	Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al	Comparative Example 2 of the present application
PVDF		
• Core η inh	1.55 dl/g	1.50 dl/g
• Sheath η inh	1.30 dl/g	1.30 dl/g
Stretching		
• First	5.82 times 169°C	5.8 times at 167°C
• Second	1.06 times at 170°C	1.06 times at 172°C
• Total	6.17 times	6.17 times
• Heat treatment	None	87°C for 3 seconds
• Knot strength	650 MPa (=66.3 kg/mm ²)	667 MPa
• Twist index (after 3 hours)	?	0.87

In view of the above comparison, it is clear that the processes of Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al. and Comparative Example 2 of the present application are very close to each other, except that the heat treatment in the latter was not performed in the former. The heat treatment adopted in Comparative Example 2 of the present application is a treatment attempting to increase the twist index. However, the heat treatment was not effective in this regard. Furthermore, even with the heat treatment, Comparative Example 2 of the present application only provided a twist index of 0.87 after 3 hours of standing.

Accordingly, it is reasonable to assert that Comparative Example 6 of Sato et al. fails to provide a twist index of at least 0.90 (higher even than Comparative Example 2 of the present application) after 3 hours of standing.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her position regarding the anticipation and obviousness rejections based on Sato et al.

Conclusion

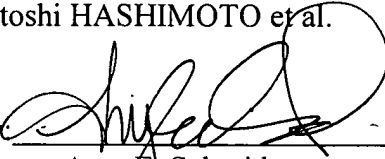
Therefore, in view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of rejection maintained by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

If, after reviewing this Request for Reconsideration, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi HASHIMOTO et al.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy E. Schmid', is written over a horizontal line.

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